

**Justice Dept. Aide's Plea****Congress Told Wiretaps**

Washington

Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen told Congress yesterday that wiretaps are necessary to fight subversion and organized crime.

He urged defeat of legislation that would impose more restrictions on electronic surveillance.

Petersen, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, testified before a House Judiciary subcommittee holding hearings on nine bills that would limit the scope of wiretapping and other electronic techniques.

"We maintain that electronic surveillance techniques are, to date, the most effective method to bring criminal sanctions against organized criminals, and are indispensable in developing witnesses with corroborating testimony, and generally in providing a useful tool in the evidence gathering process," Petersen said in a 35-page statement.

Current law, Petersen argued, provides enough safeguards against an unreasonable violation of privacy and abuse of the technique.

"The decision of which is paramount, justice or privacy, is not an easy one and can only be balanced by consideration of the needs and conditions which exist at any given moment," Petersen said.

One of the bills before the subcommittee would prohibit the president from ordering burglary or "any other illegal act" in the interest of national security.

"Any limitation of the president's constitutional power to protect the United States against foreign insti-

**Are Necessary**

gated subversion must be objected to," Petersen said.

Two of the bills would forbid any "intercept of communications between two persons without their consent."

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